

2007-1-30

DEC 14 2012



## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### The Heavenly Book Visitor

Charlotte Diggs Moon was born into the rarified Virginia aristocracy at her family's Albermarle County estate on December 17, 1840. She died a pauper's death 72 years later, thousands of miles from home and a lifetime away from her privileged early life.

Those are the cold, hard textbook facts. We all have a beginning and an end on this earth, but it's what we do in between that counts for eternity. "Lottie," as she came to be known, understood that fact.

In 1858, God moved in Lottie's life and she accepted Christ as Lord while attending the First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va. God moved again in her life in 1873, when she requested and against all odds received her missionary appointment from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board). She was one of the first single women chosen for Southern Baptist missionary service.

Lottie set sail for China in September of that year and by December had settled in the northern town of Tengchow, where she lived for the next 40 years. She devoted herself to evangelistic work among the women and children of the surrounding area, telling all who would listen about the "true God," giving away books, and teaching those who couldn't read the books.

Lottie was rejected many times and earned the nickname of "Devil Old Woman," but her persistence never flagged. She wrote to friends in the United States, "How I wish I had a thousand lives that I might give them to the women of China!"

Lottie's love for the Bible and for the Chinese people became legendary in the villages around Tengchow, and opposition to her work eventually faded. Then one day as she moved among the people with her Bible, she heard someone refer to her as the "Heavenly Book Visitor." The name quickly stuck with villagers.

In Lottie's day China suffered almost constant internal turmoil, with outside powers also attempting to exert their influence. Still, Lottie fervently continued her work through the chaos.

The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 ignited famine that soon spread through the Chinese countryside and foreshadowed fateful events to come in Lottie's life. Desperate to help the starv-



LOTTIE MOON

ing people around whom God had called her to build her life, Lottie began to withdraw her personal life savings and use the money to feed the hungry.

When that money ran out, she used virtually all her meager salary to buy food for others — often failing to retain enough food for herself. She collapsed five days before her seventy-second birthday, her health broken and her 4'11" frame nearly decimated. Years of personal sacrifice had taken its toll.

Lottie died of starvation on Christmas Eve, 1912, in the harbor of Kobe, Japan, aboard a ship that was taking her home to America. The world took little note of her life and death, but she changed Southern Baptists and China forever.

Many sad events have transpired in Lottie's China since she came home — some of which involved Southern Baptists — but God will yet prevail in that nation of soft-spoken, humble people.

A marble gravestone in a small Virginia cemetery carries Lottie's name, as does the greatest international missions offering in all of Christianity. Also on that gravestone is the simple phrase, "Faithful unto death."

God permit that those words, bought as so great a price by the Heavenly Book Visitor, should also mark the Christian service of each one of us.

## What will you give this year?

As you consider the gifts you will share with friends and loved ones through the upcoming holiday season of Christmas, I recommend that you consider giving gifts that will ultimately be more precious than gold. Maybe we can call this the "Biblical Gift Guide for the Holiday Season."

■ **Give from what you do have.** Remember when the beggar outside the temple gate in Jerusalem asked Peter and John for money? Although he was crippled from birth, the beggar was focused on money as the solution to his problem. This story is a picture of the superiority of the treasures we have in knowing Christ.

Peter understood this perfectly well. His reply to the beggar should ring in our ears: "Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk'" (Acts 3:6).

The crippled man walked! Imagine that electrifying moment. God did not send Peter and John on a mission to give away money. He sent them on a mission to give away Jesus. We have the glorious treasure of the Gospel that gives sight to the blind and heals every broken heart, so be compassionate yet bold, and give Jesus.

■ **Give apples of gold in settings of silver.** A few years ago, a personal friend became CEO of one of the largest companies in the world. The story broke in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and *Fortune*. His success in business was very impressive by all measures.

In a conversation with my father, I mentioned in passing how delighted I was for my friend's spectacular rise to the highest ranks in the business world. Dad's response will never leave me. "Well, son, that is impressive, but what you are doing is more important. I would rather you do what you are doing than be CEO of the world's largest company."

I was speechless. I never expected that would be my father's response. His words blessed my soul so much that I had to fight back the tears as he looked at me with pride and joy. I knew that he not only said it, he meant it. Solomon said, "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).



Guest opinion  
with Chuck Bentley

Think of the approaching holiday season as your opportunity to give appropriate words of affirmation to those you love.

■ **Give real security.** Freedom from fear and insecurity is in short supply right now, but regardless of how much gold you have or how high its price goes, it will never be able to deliver what is promised to those who fear God.

Listen to the promises in Psalm 112: "Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever."

"Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice."

"Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes" (Psalm 112:1-8 NIV).

One year, the only gift I could give my close friends was a card with a specially selected verse that was meant to bless them. It worked.

As you generously give from the priceless gifts that you have freely received, I pray that this will be your very best year of gift giving.

Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries in Lawrenceville, Ga.

## THE BaptistRecord

Editor  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design  
Megan Young  
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising  
Emily Jones  
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager  
Brandi Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus  
Don A. Gregor

Baptist Record  
Advisory Committee:  
Dwayne Parker, Flora  
Paul Sims, Pontotoc  
Barry Burris, Terry  
Carl White, Meridian  
Billie Buckley, Patal  
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:  
Send changes of  
address to: The Baptist  
Record, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS  
39205-0530

Send news,  
communication,  
and address changes  
to: The Editor, Baptist  
Record, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS  
39205-0530

Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



BAPTISTS

VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 48 • ISSN 0005-5778  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Fear not a factor taking Gospel to dangerous places

**CAIRO** — Gene Brooks (not his real name) has good reasons not to return to the Middle East or Central Asia. He's been arrested twice, interrogated by gun-wielding soldiers, forced to spend a night under house arrest, and worshipped secretly in homes when the church building was no longer safe.

On a trip to Egypt in October 2011, he landed in Cairo the day after more than 20 Coptic Christians were killed during a protest.

Those experiences might keep many away, but the danger is not enough to stop Brooks. His passion to encourage believers and share the Gospel drives out fear. Partnering with Southern Baptist workers overseas, he's heard their cries for help. Please pray. Please give. Please come.

Brooks has committed himself and led his church of about 60 people to be a part of God's work to reach the nations, no matter the cost.

"There is the risk, but Jesus said they hated Him, and they're going to hate us. I think part of that is having the passion for missions to go and to tell people about Jesus," Brooks said. "When that is strong in our heart, it tends to suppress the fear factor."

Despite the unrest in Egypt, Brooks didn't hesitate to ask God if his church should help fill a request for U.S. churches to partner with Egyptian Baptist churches.

Mark Ayers (not his real name), a Southern Baptist worker in the region, explained that Egypt is strategic in reaching North African and Middle Eastern peoples. He feels



**RISKY AREA** — In Egypt, Gene Brooks (not his real name) and fellow church member Louie Smith (not his real name) worshipped secretly in homes because of violent threats against the church. The Egyptian pastor was fearful to even drive the Americans by the church building. (BP photo)

an urgency for Christians to bring truth and encourage the persecuted church.

"Get under the Egyptian church and lift her up," Ayers said. "Serve the church, bless the country."

Brooks was willing and, with the support of his church, traveled to Egypt with Louie Smith (not his real name), a lay leader who has accompanied him on several international trips.

During their visit, the two men witnessed a church under severe persecution.

"They are facing death every day," Brooks said. "Yet they are joyful in their experience with Christ. They were not fearful to meet together. They were cautious, but yet they said, 'You know, if we must die for Christ, we are ready to do that.' It was an amazing experience."

"Ever since I've been back home, I relive my steps in these countries," Smith added, referring to his multiple trips into territories some might consider dangerous. "I still remember the faces and the places, and

I'm constantly praying for them. I am planning on going back. We made some friends there, we made some contacts, we made a difference."

Smith and Brooks remain committed, despite experiences that could cause others to hang up their traveling shoes. In Central Asia, their team was prayerwalking through a community and handing out Bibles. The local police came and placed them in a hotel under house arrest with an armed guard.

The next morning, the police came to escort the men out of town. They asked about the Book the two were giving away. Brooks explained that they were Christians and the Bible was their Holy Book, the Word of God.

"We actually gave six to eight of the policemen a Bible before we left town. That was pretty unique," Brooks said with a smile.

He is thankful to Southern Baptist workers who have facilitated the work he and other short-term workers have been able to accomplish. His passion to give so that their efforts can continue has become contagious in his church.

"Our people have really caught the vision and understood what it is to support our missionaries around the world. We began to encourage people to find unique ways to give," Brooks said. "Since that time our Lotie Moon [Christmas Offering] giving has actually tripled, almost quadrupled."

He knows that every prayer, every dollar, every plane ticket matters, and that it'll take more than a couple of arrests to stop him.

## Christians face persecution, death, among 'hidden people'

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — Late one night in the sub-Saharan desert, Ibrahim (not his real name) had an epiphany. He felt God leading him to read John 14, which begins: "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me" (HCSB).

A Christian had given him the Bible in 1993. The son of an imam (teacher of Islam), Ibrahim had been struggling to reconcile the God of Scripture with what he had been taught that it was blasphemous to call Jesus the Son of God.

The more he read, the more he questioned the faith he was raised to have. "The doubt grew in my life," he recalled. "I had no peace." That night in the desert, he had prayed to God, "I would like you to reveal the truth to me."

He found the answer in John 14:6: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (HCSB).

Over the next few days, Ibrahim continued battling his doubts. "The lack of peace was just becoming greater and greater in my heart," he recalled. By the end of the week, Ibrahim accepted Christ as his Savior.

Immediately, the strife he had

felt was replaced by joy — but that joy has been tested. Since becoming a believer 20 years ago, Ibrahim has faced persecution from family and friends. He is often lonely and discouraged.

Ibrahim is one of the few known believers in his predominantly Muslim people group of more than 100,000 known as the "hidden people." They live in a remote, conflict-ridden desert area dangerous to access and are one of more than 3,000 unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs) in the world with less than two percent evangelical Christians and no active church-planting strategy.

In October 2011, Ibrahim met a team from Unity Church in Prince George, Va., who had been praying for his people group since 2009. They had started going on mission trips to sub-Saharan Africa to reach the people group with the Gospel.

"It's a great encouragement," Ibrahim said, to have churches praying and partnering in this way. It made him feel like "part of a big family."

Unity Church's senior pastor, Chris Jenkins, said, "It was an honor to be able to sit there next to our one believer that we've been praying for for several years

and to hear him so eloquently share his testimony and to share what God is doing with the people even before we've ever gotten involved, and seeing that we are just a part of a bigger team that God has been bringing together for some time now."

Rebecca Waters (not her real name), a native Texan and a Christian worker in sub-Saharan Africa, helped connect Ibrahim with Unity Church. Unity Church, Waters, and other Christians in the area are helping Ibrahim provide others with the Scripture that changed his life.

Ibrahim is translating the Bible into two local languages, one of which is his people group's native tongue, and is working to record his translations into distributable audio files.

Ibrahim has been able to share his faith while checking the translation's comprehension. A few have come to know Christ, but Ibrahim calls them "secret believers," since they keep their faith clandestine to avoid persecution.

"I understand these people," Ibrahim said. "Who wants to be rejected by his family? Nobody. Rejection from his family is nothing easy. They need prayers from us."



**FEW BELIEVERS** — Chris Jenkins (right), senior pastor of Unity Church in Prince George, Va., has worked to build lasting relationships with members of the "hidden people" in an unidentified region of the world where the few believers in the area are in danger of persecution and death. (BP photo)

**OBE**DIENT  
HIS HEART / HIS HANDS / HIS VOICE

Every year around this time it is inevitable that I will hear one or several people refer to Lottie Moon in connection with the International Mission Offering. Generally in jest I hear something like, "I do not know how long she has been in college, but maybe this will be her last year and we can make the final payment." Or several years ago a fellow who was not familiar with Southern Baptist Missions asked me, "Who is that Lottie Moon lady and where does she live? Why do we send her so much money?" While it may sound humorous to those of us in the know, it is understandable that unless we tell her story and our story people will not know and neither will they understand why we keep taking offerings in her name.

Simply and briefly stated, Lottie Moon's real name was Charlotte Diggs Moon. She was one of the first among tens of thousands of women and men who would be called into missionary service from a Southern Baptist congregation and give her life to tell the world about Jesus. In the mid 1800's, Lottie was a young woman who began to experience a call from God that would ultimately lead her to China for 40 years. She loved, taught, cared, and reached the hearts of people in China while expending her last ounce of energy in life in being faithful to her Lord Jesus. On Christmas Eve 1912, she took her last breath while aboard a ship in Kobe, Japan as she was making her way back to the states.

While she faithfully served in China, she sought to help others understand how they could become a part of strengthening the missionary force in that country and in other countries around the world. So while she has



## Lottie Moon — The Final Payment

long since gone on to be with the Lord, her influence for carrying the name of Jesus to the nations of the earth has not diminished. When will the last payment be made? Well, in reality, that day will come. It will not be a final payment to her nor will it be a final payment in support of missions, but the mission will be concluded. It would be wonderful to think that the culmination of Christian missions would take place with everybody on the earth coming to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Many people may push back and say that will never be, because there is too much spiritual darkness, ignorance, and too many other forms of religion for that to ever take place. While the practical side of me would say to you that is true, the spiritual side of me must rise up and say but Jesus died for everyone and wants

everyone to come to know Him. His goal must be our goal.

On a personal level, I suppose that you could say that many people will make their last payment the day that the Lord calls them home. That in itself brings into focus a great truth, and that is all of us live in a small time capsule of opportunities. We can love, care, give, and impact our world as God gives us time and resources in our hands right now. What if you knew that you were living through your last Christmas Season and your last opportunity to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions? Would that in anyway shape what you would want to do, the impact that you would like to leave, and the legacy that you would hope that would stand after you are gone? There is an urgency that needs to capture our hearts

for this could well be the last payment that you or I will ever make and our final investment in Kingdom work to get the message of Jesus to the doorstep of every heart in the world.

From a biblical standpoint, it could clearly be said that the last payment will be finalized when Jesus comes again. That day will come when in a cataclysmic and glorious event Jesus will come and take His church to be with Him. Our work will be over and our last efforts, our last offerings, our last witness, our last sermon, and our last song of praise here will be finished. We may long for that day to come, but equally we need to long to be faithful every day until it takes place.

When Jesus left this earth His final thoughts before His ascension to heaven were focused on us and the mission that He gave us. He said in Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost has come upon you: and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." What He asked us to do is what He has watched the church carry out over the centuries. No doubt at times, He has watched it gloriously triumphant. At other times, He has seen the fires of evangelism, missions, and hope for the nations wane. But when He returns the thought that was on His mind and on His lips when He left, will still be the priority when He comes back. May we be willing to do our part, give our money, share our lives, be His witnesses, and preach His Word until the day that it is all concluded and all of our work and praise will be placed at His feet.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

Call for free BROCHURE  
**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
[www.fiberglasschurchprod.com](http://www.fiberglasschurchprod.com)  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

[www.lambsbooklist.com](http://www.lambsbooklist.com)  
JOIN "THE LIST"  
A list of Christian Businesses  
and Professionals  
Advertising Their Business

CD or IRA  
Maturing?  
**7.00%**  
First Year  
GUARANTEED  
Includes First Year Bonus

Learn the Safe & Secure Way  
to Earn Stock Market Linked  
Returns Without Market Risk  
to Your Principal.  
**L.D. O'Mire**  
Financial Services  
1-800-844-3254

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

BYLZL LPWME ZFMG MEYD, DX DYPM

WL MG UG MEY VWSS GT EWD MEPM

LYFM DY, PFU MG TFWLE EWL VGKA.

BGEF TGZK: MEWKMX-TGZK

Clue: M = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Two: Twenty-eight

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting  
Church, Conference Room, School  
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales  
[info@msaudiollc.com](mailto:info@msaudiollc.com)

P.O. Box 1575  
Clinton, MS 39060

Ph 601-923-9947  
Fax 601-924-2880

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 6, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

The 2013 Opportunities Calendar of the Pastor/Leadership Development Department is available by going to [www.mbc.org/church\\_growth/pld](http://www.mbc.org/church_growth/pld) home page and clicking on the appropriate link.

**2013 OPPORTUNITIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

PASTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Department Staff

C. Alan Woodward, Director  
C. Keith Gordon, Consultant  
Dale L. Holloway, Assistant Director  
Cathy Taylor, Ministry Assistant  
Jim Futral, Assistant Director  
Steve Stone, Assistant Director

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## DEACON MINISTRY

EMPHASIS 2013



**DESIGNATED WEEK: JANUARY 8-14, 2013**

*But may be conducted anytime during the year*

### FOCUS ON:

- Deacon's biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

Contact Keith Gordon, Pastor/Leadership Development Department for more information:  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, or 601-292-3307

## 2013 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

### "TOGETHER FOR CHRIST"

JANUARY 27-28, 2013  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RICHLAND, MISSISSIPPI



JIM FUTRAL JUNIOR HILL MICHAEL CATT CHUCK KELLEY BOB PITMAN SAMMY GILBREATH KARA BLACKARD

# BE THE ONE

Speakers: Gary Permenter & Bryant Bush

Music: Bethany Barr-Phillips

Special Appearance: Tino Wallenda

December 27-28, 2012  
Mississippi College, Clinton

Registration begins Thursday  
Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.  
Concludes Friday Dec. 28  
12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about YEC 2012, please contact us at 601-292-3278 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail [jellis@mbcb.org](mailto:jellis@mbcb.org).



## WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA *Awards Banquet & Workshop*

MAY 3 - 4, 2013  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,  
RIDGELAND, MISS.

### **Awards Competition:**

- Entries in the Award Competition must have been produced or aired between April 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013
- Awards entry deadline is March 8, 2013
- Awards entry cost \$15 per entry

### **Banquet and Workshop:**

- Banquet and workshop registration deadline is April 19, 2013
- Registration for all activities is \$30 per person
- Friday Awards Banquet only or Saturday Workshop only is \$25 per person

Watch for more information coming to you soon!

## Baptist Nursing Fellowship Spring Long



February 2, 2013  
Garaywa Camp &  
Conference Center, Clinton, Miss.

Don't miss an opportunity to join nurses from all over the state as we worship, fellowship and share ways to serve Christ. For more information contact, Denise Windom, [denisewindom@bellsouth.net](mailto:denisewindom@bellsouth.net) or Deborah Bolian, [bolian@mc.edu](mailto:bolian@mc.edu).

The new 2013 Missionary Moments are here! Start praying for our Southern Baptist Missionaries on January 1! Please contact Stewardship Department to order a copy for your church.

Lisa Leavell  
Stewardship Department  
601-292-3347  
[lleavell@mbcb.org](mailto:lleavell@mbcb.org)

## PASTORS & WORSHIP LEADERS WORKSHOP

*"Together for Christ in Worship"*



Alan Woodward



March 4, 2013  
Agricola BC, Lucedale  
9 a.m. - noon



Slater Murphy

Led by Alan Woodward, director of the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., and Slater Murphy, director of the Church Music Dept., MBCB

Registration requested. Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305; 601-292-3305 or [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org).

## Church Building Conference/Lifeway Church Architecture

March 19, 2013  
Skyroom, MBCB Baptist Building  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Provide key leaders with quality church facility information. Registration requested. Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, 601-292-3305 or [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org).



Mississippi Baptists say

## Merry Christmas

to the pastors in the Alaska, Iowa, and Northwest Baptist Conventions through The Suit Project ministry.

**What is the Suit Project?** For over 48 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

**How do I get involved?** Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$140. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls In Action, or WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, The Suit Project is the perfect choice.

**Where do I send my donation?** Make your check payable to MBCB and designate your check to The Suit Project and mail to Men's Ministry, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

If funds are available, we will send a gift certificate to the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

## 2013 Week Day Education

February 9

8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Highland BC, Meridian

March 2

8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Ridgecrest BC, Madison

**Registration in advance required:**

**Cost \$15 per conferee**

Checks for registration fees should be payable to the  
**Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.**

Center Directors, Pastors, & Children's Ministers  
accompanying their teachers are **FREE.**

**4 hours of Health Department Approved Training**

**Discipleship and Family Ministry**

PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

dhicks@mccb.org

## SINGLE PARENTS RETREAT

FEBRUARY 8 - 9

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BILOXI

FRIDAY 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

SATURDAY MORNING IS MEET & GREET AT CHICK-FIL-A

FEATURING:

**JAMES CRUISE**

AUTHOR & INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

*"In the midst of extraordinary circumstances, James walked the single parent life for over 15 years."*

Per Person: \$12 or \$20 with T-Shirt

(MUST REGISTER ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1)

**CALL 228-396-8500**

for reservation

**\*Scholarships to be given away at Retreat\***

**\*Child Care available for ages 2 years - 12 years old\***

Finger foods provided on Friday night

2013 SUMMER CAMP

# GARAYWA

WWW.GARAYWA.ORG

or call Karen 601-924-7034

*Missions Camp  
for girls*

June 10 - 14

June 17 - 21

June 24 - 28

July 8 - 12

July 15 - 19



*Missions Camp  
for students*

June 24 - 28

July 8 - 12



*Day Camp  
for boys and girls*

July 1 - 3

Pray this day for...

December 7 - January 3, 2013

*"None of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled."*

*Joshua 21:45*

Pray for: **Geraldine\* and George Smith**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Uganda through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Janna\* Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting.

Pray for a team of 7 from **Williamsville BC** going to Bangladesh December 11-21.

Pray for a team of 6 from the **Lauderdale BA** going to the Dominican Republic December 12-18.

Pray for: **Thomas\* Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support.

Pray for: **Lane\* Vance**, missionary ministering to European Peoples in France through evangelism.

Pray for: **Margaret and Burton\* Schmitz**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Regina\* and David\* White**, missionaries to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and church planting.

Pray for: **Sylvia\* and Floyd Wingo**, missionaries to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donna\* and Paul Worsham**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Margie\* and Arnold\* Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community outreach and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Martha\* and Richard Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through financial administration and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Laurie\* and David Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Teressa\* and Donald\* Bolls**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through agriculture, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Megan\* and Mathew\* Brewer**, missionaries to European Peoples in Hungary through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye\* Brooks**, missionary to American Peoples in China through church planting.

Pray for: **Claudia\* and John Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donna\* and Donald\* Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Pamela\* and David Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through theological education and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Wanda\* and Richard\* Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy\* and Cindy\* DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through hospitality coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas\* and Kent Dewett**, missionaries to American Peoples in the Dominican Republic through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Mary\* and Alvin Doyle**, missionaries to European Peoples in Hungary through membership.

Pray for: **Tiffany and Aaron\* Epps**, missionaries to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert\* and Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Botswana through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Gloria\* and David\* Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through media consultation and promotion.

Pray for: **Sonia\* and John\* Grady**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2/2/07

**MISS ALESSIA WORTHY**  
Parents: Charlie & Shannon  
European Peoples

2/16/01

**MR. HADDON BLEDSOE**  
Parents: David & Laurie  
American Peoples

2/24/00

**MR. NATHAN PEACOCK**  
Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
European Peoples



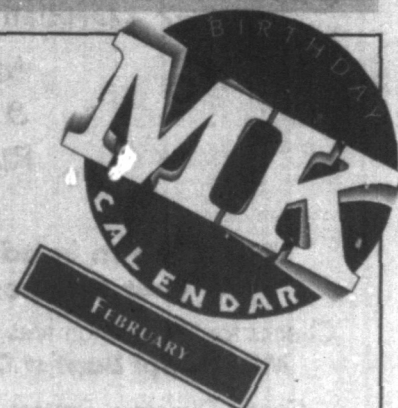
MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

**Encourage an MK with a card!**

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

**Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.**



**HOUSE TOPS**



## Hearing is Believing

For a FREE consultation call  
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821  
or go online at [www.audioservices.org](http://www.audioservices.org)

Professional Sound  
System Design and  
Installation  
Church / School / Commercial

**audio SERVICES**  
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

## MS. POSITIONS

**MORRISON CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH, CLEVELAND, IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH/ASSOCIATE PASTOR.** Resumes may be sent to Personnel Committee, 196 Morrison Chapel Road, Cleveland, MS 38732. Job description is available.

**THE SCOTT COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE ASSOCIATION MISSIONS DIRECTOR POSITION.** Please mail resumes to: SCBA: AMD Search Committee, 518 Airport Road, Forest, MS 39074. For further inquiries, contact Bro. Paul Smith 601-214-8499.

**OSYKA BAPTIST CHURCH, OSYKA, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR.** Please mail resumes to Osyka Baptist Church, P. O. Box 152, Osyka, MS 39657. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

**TILLATOBA BAPTIST CHURCH, TILLATOBA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Interested parties may mail resumes to: Tillatoba Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee, P.O. Box 101, Tillatoba, Ms 38961.

**WEBSTER COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY HAS AN OPENING FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR.** Please send resumes to Rev. Wade Stevens, PO Box 200, Mathiston, MS 39752, or email [mathistonfbcp@bellsouth.net](mailto:mathistonfbcp@bellsouth.net).

The 25th edition of the original  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
Christmas Ornament

polished pewter gift boxed



shown approximately actual size only \$13.95

**The Brown Pelican**  
Ask about our Free Shipping  
and our other state ornaments.

**MARTIN MIAZZA**

1208 Pass Rd. Gulfport MS 39501  
[WWW.MartinMiazza.com](http://WWW.MartinMiazza.com)  
phone 1-800-476-1208

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR:** Beech Haven Baptist Church of Athens, GA is seeking an ordained Baptist pastor. If you meet the criteria stated at [www.beechhaven.org/srpastor](http://www.beechhaven.org/srpastor) and wish to apply, send a resume and cover letter by 1/11/2013 describing why you want to be considered as a candidate ([bhbcpsc@gmail.com](mailto:bhbcpsc@gmail.com)).

**WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP**—windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call 601-709-4879.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.** OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662 453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

**FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING TO BUY LATE MODEL LOW MILEAGE USED BUS, 15 passenger to 27 passenger, Ford chassis, gas burner, preferable from a church in our area. No handicap accessible please. Must have available maintenance records. If you are looking to sell your bus, please call 601-939-4476.**

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES.** Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

**GATLINBURG RENTALS:** Cabin \$90/night and Condo \$70/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net) for information and booking.

**GET THE BEST RATES ON:** Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit [www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com](http://www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com)

**WANT A GOOD GROUP OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN TO ENTERTAIN AT YOUR NEXT SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP?** Call the Ragged Roos, a washitub band. We sing, tell jokes, and play instruments. Call us at 601-857-0736.

**SEBREN'S SIDING** [www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com](http://www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com). Christian owned Don & Rita Sebre. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.,** serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

**NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP!** "Estate Sales Experts" Turn assets into cash in 14 days. Honist - Professional - References 601-317-2536 [www.nickclarkauctions.com](http://www.nickclarkauctions.com) Certified Appraiser Statewide Service No upfront fees or expenses We do 100% of the work

**GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS** call for a brochure 601-940-6841.

**2005 CHEVY 3500 V-8 15-PASSENGER VAN.** New transmission and battery. Remote keyless entry with alarm system. All 4 (+spare) premium, heavy duty tires for hauling extra weight. DVD player. Towing/cargo package. \$9,000. [jocopen@gmail.com](mailto:jocopen@gmail.com).

**STAINED GLASS:** new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

## College News



Seven **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** students were formally inducted into the WCU Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society on November 14 on WCU's Hattiesburg campus. Pictured are (row one, left to right) Nancy Barnard of Laurel, Alyssa Keyes of Ringgold, Ga., Amanda Gwin of Moselle, (row two, left to right) Alex Parker of Hattiesburg (existing member), Danielle Walters of Carriere, (row three, left to right) Randi Clark of Purvis, Natalie McMillen of Hattiesburg and Autumn Barnard of Laurel. Faculty sponsor is Edison Williams, instructor of philosophy and language and literature, and co-sponsor is Dolores O'Mary, administrative assistant for language and literature. Officers elected for the 2012-13 year are Alyssa Keyes, president, and Alex Parker, vice-president.

## In other College News:

► **William Carey University** will celebrate the Christmas season with an Old Fashioned Christmas Festival on December 11, from 8

a.m. - 5 p.m., outside of the Commons Grounds Coffee House on the Hattiesburg Campus. The festival will feature pictures with Santa Claus, Christmas games and musical performances. The community is invited to enjoy

food, fellowship, and music with activities for the entire family. Event t-shirts will be available for \$15 each at the festival. For more information, contact Emily Sheckells, director of Student Activities, at (601) 307-5886.

## SURGEON

cont. from p. 1

2,000, and most national believers are forced to keep their faith a secret.

Obedience to God's call hasn't come without sacrifice. By 7 a.m. the next day, Page is eager to begin morning rounds at the hospital. He swings by the office to check email.

"Just another day in paradise," he jokes with his driver, Farooq (not his real name), as their SUV bounces violently across a series of Hula-Hoop-sized potholes, a minor inconvenience compared with the overwhelming hardship of daily life here.

The Pages live in a mud home with spotty electricity. Winters are especially harsh, with temperatures dropping below -20 F. That's cold enough to coat the walls inside their house with ice.

At the hospital, Page regularly treats patients for diseases rarely encountered in the U.S., like typhoid fever, tuberculosis and dysentery. He has amputated limbs

from landmine victims, removed handfuls of worms from patients' intestines, and helped nurse malnourished children back from the brink of death, all while patiently and persistently seeking God-given opportunities to bear witness for Christ.

Open cultural and political animosity toward the Gospel also means those who share Jesus do so at great personal risk — including prison, kidnapping, and even murder. Vehicles must be checked for explosives. Razor wire lines the walls around the Pages' home.

"They're locked into a system of righteousness based on works. ... They have no hope of salvation. They have no understanding or sense of grace or forgiveness," Page says.

"Famine, disease, injustice, abuse of women and children, human trafficking. — all of these things relate to that darkness... and they've been enslaved for hundreds and thousands of years like this. It's a kingdom of darkness. I think

Satan is very powerful here."

Most of the town's few thousand residents survive as farmers or shepherds, but years of drought and conflict have withered harvests, dwindled herds, and decimated livelihoods. Less than 25% of the area's households have access to safe drinking water and fewer than 10% have adequate toilet facilities.

More than 30% of the population lives below the poverty line. One-third of all pre-school children are underweight.

Mohammed is one of them. Just 18 months old and severely malnourished, he was brought to the hospital suffering from pneumonia and an infection in his right thigh. He winces in pain at the slightest touch, his squeaky cries broken only by a thick, wet cough. "I'm sorry," Page says softly as he listens to the boy's breathing. "Poor little guy's struggling. ... He may not make it."

The tone in Page's voice reveals a tender heart. He admits dealing with the hardness of life here takes its toll but worse than a patient's death, he says, is witnessing their suffering and especially that of women and children.

"It's a culture of men," he explains. "The women are basically property."

Even in the midst of overwhelming need, lives are being changed. Page regularly treats patients free of charge outside the hospital, many of whom simply show up at his front gate. Alice works closely with a group of women she's befriended and runs a handicraft program to help them earn extra income.

"This is what Jesus did when He was on earth. He healed people. He went out of his way to touch people, to feed people," Page says, "and He says that when we do these things, it's like we're doing them to Him."

**BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE**

Mike Brooks  
Agency Principal

an authorized agency of  
**Brotherhood Mutual**  
Insurance Company

Call today for a free quote **888.908.3662**  
or email: [mike@brooksmistryinsurance.com](mailto:mike@brooksmistryinsurance.com)

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**OCTOBER 27-  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

### HONORS

Barbara Brock  
Gleaners SSC,  
Pilgrims Rest BC  
Mrs. James E. (Mary Alta) Clark  
Marilyn Brady  
Vickey Cothorn  
Mattie Rials  
Favorite Friends SSC  
Mattie Rials  
Clarence E. Henley, Jr.  
Charlie B. Mitchell  
Family  
Charles Renfrow  
Edna Gilliland

**OCTOBER 27-  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

### MEMORIALS

Robbie H. Abel  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E.  
Fuqua, Jr.  
Byron & Cathy Kyle  
Johnnie Ables  
J. B. Haden  
Robert "Bobby" Adams  
Dianne D. Myrick  
Family  
Troy Adams  
Carole Tyrone  
Juanita Martin Baker  
Jack & Judy McRee  
Rita Banes  
Diana & Michael  
Forrest  
Mr. Rayford Beard  
Spring Hill BC  
Mr. Ted Berry  
Eldon & Bonnie Pitts  
Thomas Blaylock  
James & Peggy Palmer

Aubrey Boleware  
Ida Mae Bridges  
Mrs. Ava Bonds  
Gerald & Patricia  
Hasselmann  
Cecil Bowen  
James & Peggy  
Palmer  
Linda Bowlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry  
Benson  
Elanie Bridges  
Ida Mae Bridges  
Carol Brooks  
Deer Creek BC  
Frank Brown  
John Dell Hucabee  
Bettie Gail Meek  
Nancy Shows  
Marlene B. Brown  
Ethelene J. Blanton  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Bobby Joe Butler  
Randy B. Eaves  
Ursula Campbell  
Carol C. Smith  
Dewayne Chamblee  
Ron & Beth Hill  
Lewis F. Coffey  
Shirley M. Nowell  
Senita Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip  
Reeves  
Mrs. Doris Cole  
Ida Mae Bridges  
Alma Cook  
Ida Mae Bridges  
Bill Creech  
Grumpy Ole Men SSC  
John M. Curlee  
Doug & Charlotte  
Russell  
Nan King  
Lawrence Daggett  
J. B. Haden  
Mr. & Mrs. V. B. Davis

Mary Horton  
Lorena Dean  
Alice Zumbro  
Carole B. DeLaune  
James & Faye  
Brannon  
Mrs. Marie Donahoe  
Gleaner SSC, Pilgrims  
Rest BC  
Earl P. Doolittle  
James & Peggy  
Palmer  
John Marcus Dugan  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H.  
Mapp, Jr.  
Mr. Charles Duncan  
Lynn & Rudy Robbins  
Harold & Lisa Riley  
Ronnie M. Durr  
Ms. Alma G. Smith  
Tommie Duvall  
Arthur Powell Family  
Tracey Dyess  
Harold & Lisa Riley  
Joe Elmore  
John Dell Hucabee  
Bettie Gail Meek  
Nancy Shows  
Ms. Edna Grace Embry  
US Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Bobby & Tricia Tullos  
Mr. Jerry Fry  
Mr. & Mrs. Herb  
Singleton  
Sloan Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C.  
Fulton  
Mrs. Mable Galloway  
Atherton Engineers,  
Inc.  
Geneva Gardner  
Bobby C. Gardner  
Karan Alexander Gordon  
Mrs. Robert  
Alexander  
Dolly Graves  
Sonny & Margaret  
Newton  
Thomas Graves  
Shelia Huffman  
Patricia Smith Green  
Carol C. Smith  
Dalma Grissom  
Mr. & Mrs. Gale  
Gregory  
Mary Lillian Gross  
Joe & Charlotte Steele  
Mrs. Ada Guest  
Ms. Judy Houston  
Mrs. Martha MaryJane  
Hammack  
Curtis S. & Katye L.  
Summerlin  
Clarence E. Henley, Sr.  
Charlie B. Mitchell  
Family  
Tariel Hitchcock  
Sunflower BC  
Mrs. Floye Hitt  
Harold & Lisa Riley  
Patrick James  
John Dell Hucabee  
Bettie Gail Meek  
Nancy Shows  
Mrs. Marvline Kelly  
Ida Mae Bridges  
Joyce H. Kendrick  
Billy & Bobbye  
Switzer  
Judy Kerley  
Harold & Lisa Riley  
Larue Lambert  
Arlington Heights BC  
Mrs. Faye Jean Langford  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester  
Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Leffler  
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie  
Speights  
Mr. Ray Leggett  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester  
Haddox



(At left) Barry Biggers and his son deliver turkeys on behalf of the Wild Turkey Federation to The Baptist Children's Village for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



(Below) The Mississippi Widows Sons Grand Chapter recently presented a donation of \$1,500.00 to The Baptist Children's Village designated for the Farrow Manor Campus in Coldwater, MS.

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



# Rebuking Destructive Behavior • Hosea 4:1-6, 12-14

One of the most difficult things to deal with in the postmodern world in which we live is the lack of a standard of right and wrong. In today's world what is right for me may not be right for you. Right and wrong are left up to the whim of the beholder. Post modern people view the Biblical concept of sin as old and antiquated. Others just try to avoid thinking about sin all together. As we move into our study of Hosea we are faced with how God views the sin of His people. Note that chapter four of Hosea begins a new section and Hosea's family life will not be referenced directly.

## Spiritual Decay (Hosea 4:1)

In Hosea 4:1 God presents His case against the children of Israel. He tells them that there is "no truth, no faithful love, and no knowledge of God in the land." (HCSB) Hosea uses three terms to convey a strong message to God's people. "No truth refers to speaking and living in a truthful manner. It describes integrity, honesty, and other aspects of good moral character. The phrase faithful love is more than just showing loyalty to people to whom you have an obligation, as when a husband is faithful to his wife. It describes being faithfully consistent in showing kindness and love to others, regardless of whether we think we owe it to them or not. The term knowledge of God

refers to knowing God Himself. It refers to a relationship with God, not just knowledge of doctrine or scripture content." (EBS Adult Commentary-Winter 2012-13) The people were not only being unfaithful to God, they had reached a point where they had no regard for the well being of others.

## Lawless Society (Hosea 4:2-4)

The spiritual decay revealed in verse one will lead any social group into a state of lawlessness. In verse two we see a list of sins that are present in God's people. The list is a very familiar one. It is a list of the prohibited social sins listed in the Ten Commandments. As we discussed last week, God can use anyone to accomplish His will and we can add to that 'anything'. Verse three reminds us that He can use nature to discipline His children, if necessary. While certainly not all natural disasters are God's discipline, the fact remains He will use His creation to punish His children. God is re-



## Explore the Bible with Huey Dedmon

mind them that their unfaithfulness and sinfulness has devastated both their society and their land.

## Failed Leadership (Hosea 4:4-6)

I have heard many times a society or group's success or failure depends on the vision of their leaders. In verse four God brings a strong indictment against the spiritual leaders of the children of Israel. While no one is without excuse, God is especially upset with the priests and prophets. They are the ones charged with the teaching of God's ways and with the spiritual development of the people. Not only have they failed in their task, they have themselves rejected God's laws and now face the rejection of God. (V6)

## Sick Religion (Hosea 4:12-14)

The destructive behavior of the children of Israel had turned their worship of

the one true God into a sick religion of idol worship, creation-worship, and a corrupted sacrificial system. They had integrated the worship of Baal, which included temple prostitution, into their worship of Yahweh. They had turned to such things as "divining rods", sacrifices to false gods, and to creation for their spiritual guidance. Verse fourteen may lead us to believe that the promiscuous young women would not be punished but we know that they were not spared the trials of Assyrian domination. Most scholars agree that this is a rhetorical, not literal, statement. In other words, why should they be punished when their own fathers and husbands have taught them to act this way? The rampant idolatry and immoral behavior of God's children could only result in their doom.

The passages we have looked at today are God's rebuking of the sinfulness of His priests and people. What we need to learn here is that we need to recognize and avoid the attitudes and behaviors that are displeasing to God. We please God when we maintain a growing relationship with Him, recognize that sin will destroy our society and world, and pray for our leaders holding them and ourselves accountable to live Godly lives.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education/Outreach at Brandon Church, Brandon.

# Yahweh Our Father • Psalm 103

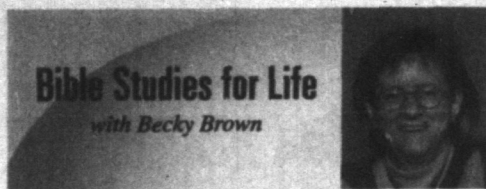
If earthly fathers were placed under arrest and thrown into jail for doing their best to live like Jesus, my dad would be confined to cell block 103. This lesson might be a difficult one for others to write, but not for me. God blessed me with a father who loves the Word of God, the Son of God and the Name of God. I first came to know God as "Yahweh" from my dad and his love and study of the languages of the Bible: Hebrew and Greek and Aramaic.

As I have grown in my own faith and love for The Word and those biblical languages, I have determined every day to go deeper and grow taller in my understanding of Who God is and what He has planned for my life and work and ministry. What of "cell block 103" you might ask? Our scripture passage is Psalm 103. I have read this Psalm many times and studied it and prayed through it and even memorized it. Until this lesson, I had never seen the whole Psalm as a word of thanksgiving for fathers. After last week's lesson, I find that it is both thanksgiving for earthly fathers and praise to God for being our eternal Father.

Psalm 103 was penned by David, the son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah, ancestors of Jesus. When God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint His replacement for King

Saul, Jesse paraded his sons through their home in birth order. Meanwhile, David, the youngest son of Jesse, was out tending sheep. Jesse sent for David only after the request of Samuel. The least of these was the very one to be anointed King of Israel. I have often wondered about the quality of the relationship between David and Jesse, his father.

To know Yahweh as loving Father is critical to your spiritual growth. Even if you are blessed to have a dad like mine, you still need to know that God is the Greatest Father. Especially if you did NOT have a dad like mine, this is a concept of deep comfort and blessing. Our dads gave us the opportunity of physical life. Yahweh alone can provide eternal life later and abundant life now. Your dad (might) LOAN you the keys to the family car. Yahweh wants to GIVE you the keys to Heaven!



## Bible Studies for Life with Becky Brown

David's song in Psalm 103 harmonizes beautifully with Moses' song in Exodus 15 which we studied last week. Both scripture songs begin by lifting praise to Yahweh, the LORD. Moses emphasized the power of Yahweh in the crossing of the Red Sea. David emphasized the presence of Yahweh

in crossing the seas of everyday life. David sings along with Moses in verse seven. Yahweh: we are to bless His holy name. We are to

forget none (which means we must remember ALL) of His benefits. Yahweh pardons sin. He heals our diseases. He redeems our lives from the pit. He crowns us with lovingkindness and compassion. He satisfies our desires. He renews our youth.

Yahweh deals with us like a loving father. He can be tough with tenderness and tender with toughness. He shows us the way to live through His Word and by His Holy Spirit. He points out our wayward

and rebellious ways while giving us the opportunity to get a "do better" star. His love is as tall as the sky. The famous Hubble telescope will never find the boundary of the heavens. His forgiveness erases our confessed transgressions, hurling them as "...far as the East is from the West, one nail-scarred hand to the other (Casting Crowns song lyrics)." Earthly fathers ever live in our hearts. Yahweh alone is from everlasting to everlasting. Reverence is due to both Yahweh and our birth fathers. Yahweh gives "daddy" bugs. Crawl into His lap. Though the love of Yahweh is undeserved, it is also unequalled and unceasing. You may not have had a dad like mine, but you can rest in the arms of The One Who made you. He loves you best.

The chorus of a song I wrote about my dad declares:

"He is the son of his father made in the image of The Man Who is The Son and The Father and I've come to understand that the One Who loves me most is The Father up above. I found Him first in my father's love."

Brown is the staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

## NAME

cont. from p. 1

attending seminary and preparing to serve, so she thought, in West Africa in a place and with a people with which she was accustomed.

When given the opportunity to lead short-term mission teams to the NAME region, Edwards jumped at the chance but soon discovered that these people were nothing like West Africans.

"I really struggled," said the

tall, energetic young woman who now serves full time in the region. "After about a month and a half, my team leader and God both really challenged my heart to love [these people]."

Underneath Edwards' cheerful, jovial manner, a serious passion for seeing North African and Middle Eastern people come to Christ is ever-present. Her passion, though, does not come from herself. It comes from obedience to the Lord.

"It's a supernatural love for

sure," she said, since the people to whom she ministers are not accustomed to being loved by Westerners and are perpetually "on the defensive."

Their tough exterior is riddled with cracks, however. "They are very prideful and they are very good at putting up a good [front], but the bottom line is they are just a broken people," Edwards said. They are not used to hearing about a heavenly Father who cares for them.

In a recent Bible study, Ed-

wards was teaching two Muslims from the Book of John about the Word becoming flesh. The two young women were confused. Why would God care enough to put on flesh and come to the earth? God doesn't care about me. He doesn't see me. Nobody does, they said.

Edwards asked, "Was it possible for someone to love you and to put on long-sleeved shirts and skirts [despite the hot weather], to pull her hair back and cover her head with a scarf, to leave

her family behind, to forsake a career, to forsake a possible marriage and children, and to leave the things she knows in her culture and the home that she thought she would live in for the rest of her life, and come to you and tell you she loves you?"

It was as if a light bulb turned on. The girls finally understood. "If a human loves you enough to come to you to tell you this, then surely God loves you enough to send me, and God loved you enough to come," Edwards told the women.

## Just for the Record



Children from **IMMANUEL CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, visited the Curry Farms Pumpkin Patch in Start, La., Oct. 20.



**MORRISON CHAPEL CHURCH, CLEVELAND**, ordained Glen Hill as deacon Oct. 21. Shown, left, is pastor John Thomas and Hill.



**FIRST CHURCH, SALTILLO**, recently ordained Cory Flanagan as deacon. Shown are Flanagan and pastor Ronnie Hatfield.



The family of Herman and Aline Wilkinson, Sr., recently presented an endowment from the sale of their father's Mississippi home in the amount of \$80,000 to the **MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION**. The proceeds are to be used for missions and ministry. Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wilkinson, Jr., Carolyn Wilkinson Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Wilkinson, and Alton Foster.

### In other Church News:

► **Green's Creek Church, Petal**, will present There's Peace in the World Tonight Dec. 16, 10 a.m.



A team of eight members from **FIRST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT**, served alongside NAMB church strengtheners/MSC Missionaries Terry & Dana Pickens in Dinosaur, Col., Nov. 9-17. The team did construction work, door-to-door evangelism, and led revival services at Dinosaur Church. Shown are pastor Gary Linville, Heather Linville, Becky Gresham, Allen Tatum, Alex Tatum, Justin Anderson, Duncan Schaefer, Jesse Taylor, and the Pickens.

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

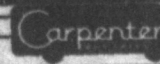
Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

### 5-YEAR/60,000-MILE BODY & CHASSIS WARRANTY

Standard with every new bus purchase. Carpenter Bus Sales has gone the extra mile again in providing a unique 5-year/60,000-mile body & chassis warranty\* with every new bus they sell! An option like this would normally add \$3,000 to the price of a bus. With Carpenter Bus, it comes standard.



Call 866-750-5555 or visit us online at [CarpenterBus.com](http://CarpenterBus.com)



\*Excludes all other Limited Warranty or extended service contracts.